

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 26-28 remain in this application. Claims 16-25 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 11, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 26-28 have been added.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-15.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Fig. 4 of the drawings and page 6, line 5 of the specification for various informalities contain therein. See paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action. The identified informalities have been corrected by the current amendments (which are based on the Examiner's suggestions). For example, the reference numeral for the claw (in page 6, line 5 of the specification) has been changed from 100 to 150 and the reference line for the top side 175 of the claw (in Fig. 4) has been moved to properly reference the top side of the claw. Proposed replacement Fig. 4 that incorporates the change made is enclosed with this Amendment. Formal drawings based on the above proposed change are submitted, herewith, to expedite allowance.

The Examiner also objected to the title of the invention as not descriptive. The Applicant respectfully disagrees, and maintains that the title is sufficiently descriptive of the invention. In the interest of expediting prosecution and removing issues impeding allowance, however, the Applicant has amended the title as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, the Applicant has revised the abstract "to reflect the claimed apparatus" as requested by the Examiner. See paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite and/or lacking sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant submits that Claims 1-15 as amended (either directly or indirectly by way of claim dependency) are definite and/or have sufficient antecedent basis for the following reasons.

With regard to Claim 1, the Examiner asserts that the limitation recited in lines 10-11 of Claim 1 is unclear. Although the Applicant respectfully believes that the claim

is sufficiently clear, the Applicant, nevertheless, rewrites Claim 1 to better clarify the claimed subject matter and to expedite allowance. The amendment to Claim 1 is based on the combinations of features indicated by the Examiner in paragraph 8 of the Office Action as being allowable. Specifically, Claim 1 now recites an apparatus for aligning and soldering connectors onto an edge of a printed circuit board, comprising:

a base having a top surface, said top surface having a slot;

a first finger clamp attached to said top surface and located between a side of said base and a side of said slot; and

a claw coupled to said top surface via said first finger clamp, said claw having a top claw side and a bottom claw side.

With respect to dependent Claim 15, the Examiners asserts that "[i]t is not know what material is being referring 'a heat resistant material' (see claim 15, line 2)." As amended, Claim 15 now recites, among other things, "a heat resistant material comprising an epoxy-resin-glass fiber." The support for the amendment can be found at least in page 6, lines 26-27 of the specification.

Dependent Claims 8, 11, and 14 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in paragraph 7 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now definite and/or have sufficient antecedent basis. Moreover, since Claims 1-15 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-15 should now be allowed.

New Claims 26-28 have been added. Claims 26-28 depend on Claim 1. The support for these claims can be found in the original recitations of Claim 1. It is respectfully that the limitations in these new claims are neither disclosed in nor suggested by the references made of record.

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In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-15 and 26-28 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. To the extent it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

While the Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure (proposed replacement Fig. 4 and formal drawings)